compared to many other developing countries. The HDI is based on parameters such as life expectancy at birth, adult literacy ratio, combined gross enrolment ratio in education and GDP per capita. The Government strategy of strengthening social infrastructure has a positive impact in improving the living conditions of the people. The implementation of flagship programmes such as National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyaan (SSA) and poverty alleviation by providing wage and self employment, providing safe drinking water and effective implementation of sanitation campaign etc. are expected to further improve the India's ranking in HDI.

Special status to Bihar

†1614. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Bihar for giving special status to the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that the former Government prior to the constitution of present Government had intended that Bihar be made resourceful by according it special status to eradicate its backwardness; and

(d) if so, whether Government will give special status to Bihar by taking action according to its earlier expressed intentions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) A proposal regarding special category status has been received from the State Government of Bibar and Government of India is seized of the matter.

Gross State Domestic Product

1615. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the real growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at 1999-2000 prices, national *vis-a-vis* State-wise, during the Tenth Five Year Plan and targeted in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) what has been the GSDP for 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(c) the reasons for which Jharkhand has a low growth rate in GSDP, in spite of being rich in mineral resources; and

(d) the details of the measures taken to accelerate the growth in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The State wise details of real growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at 1999-2000 prices, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, Eleventh Five Year Plan and for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.